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next most important proposed amendment was the one in Ohio. For a number of years Ohio has been struggling with her restrictive constitutional provision relating to taxation. It reads in part as follows: "Laws shall be passed, taxing by a uniform rule, all moneys, credits, investments in bonds, stocks, joint stock companies, or otherwise; and also all real and personal property, according to its true value in money." An honorary tax commission advised the repeal of this section and the incorporation of the following: "The general assembly shall have power to establish and maintain an equitable system for raising State and local revenue. It may classify the subjects of taxation so far as their differences justify the same, in order to secure a just return from each. All taxes and other charges shall be imposed for public purposes only and shall be just to each subject. The power of taxation shall never be surrendered, suspended, or contracted away."

The legislature passed the necessary resolutions, the provision was voted on and rejected.

If we consider these amendments, both approved and rejected, by subjects, we find that the provisions for the separation of the sources of State and local revenue were defeated in California and Missouri; that general provisions to take the place of specific were rejected in Ohio, South Dakota and Washington; that the existing constitutional rate was retained in Montana and Utah; that taxes for highways were approved in Missouri and Wisconsin and disapproved in Minnesota, Missouri (ten amendments were voted on in Missouri) and Texas; that the income tax was approved in Wisconsin and rejected in South Dakota or else was voted down with the longer amendment of which it was a part; that provision for taxes to pay damages done by wind and hail was rejected in Minnesota; that the taxation of church property was not approved in Minnesota; that a tax for school purposes was adopted in Texas; and that the mortgage tax law was retained in the constitution of California and the clause providing for the exemption of mortgages was favorably considered in Louisiana.

ROBERT ARGYLL CAMPBELL.

Corporation taxes—Ontario, Canada. In 1908 the legislative assembly of the Province of Ontario, Canada, passed an act to supplement the revenues of the crown. In reality this act is a revision and compilation of acts passed at previous sessions, with slight amendments added. The act deals entirely with taxes levied on capitalistic, insurance, and public

utility companies including banks, loan and trust companies; life and fire insurance companies; railroads, street railways, telegraph, telephone, gas, electric light, express, and sleeping car companies. The revenue derived from the tax as levied is to go to the province, but these same companies may be subject to further taxes for Dominion and municipal purposes. This fact should be born in mind when the justice of the tax as levied by the province is considered.

BANKS—Banks are to be taxed on their capital stock, the amount depending upon the location of the head office, the capital stock, and the number of branch banks. If the head office is located in Ontario a tax of one-tenth of 1 per cent is levied on the paid-up capital stock up to \$2,000,000 and an additional \$25 is added for every \$100,000 or fraction of that amount in excess of \$2,000,000 and not exceeding \$6,000,000. Over and above this a tax of \$100 is levied on the head office in Ontario and \$25 for each additional office, branch or agency in the province. When the head office or principal place of business is located outside of Ontario and the company has no more than five agencies or branch offices within the province, the lieutenant-governor in council may take this into consideration, determine the amount of capital in use in Ontario, and arbitrarily reduce the amount of the tax with this limitation. In no case is the rate to be less than one-tenth of 1 per cent upon one-half of the paid-up capital.

LIFE INSURANCE—The tax on insurance companies depends primarily on the location of the head office. Every life insurance company which transacts business in Ontario is to pay a tax of 1 per cent on the gross premiums received on business transacted in the province. When the company has its head office in some other province or country and an annual income of less than \$20,000 from business on policies of persons resident in Ontario and lends its money secured by land within the province, the company is to pay a tax of 1 per cent on the gross premiums received from the policies and one quarter of 1 per cent on the gross annual income from loans on policies, or land, or securities on land in Ontario. In the case of re-insurance the company re-insured is to be exempt from the tax imposed on the premiums paid to the re-insuring company and the re-insuring company is to be liable for the tax as a part of its gross premiums. Where the re-insuring company, however, does not transact business directly in Ontario and has no principal or head office in the province the company re-insured must be liable for the tax and for its payment to the treasurer and must retain enough of the premium to cover the tax imposed.

FIRE INSURANCE—Other insurance companies, and this would include fire insurance companies, are to pay a tax of two-thirds of 1 per cent on the gross premiums received on business done in Ontario. Mutual fire insurance companies receiving premiums in cash are to calculate the tax on the gross premiums received on business transacted in the province.

LOAN COMPANIES—Every loan company transacting business in Ontario is to pay a tax as follows: (a) companies with a fixed or permanent paid-up capital, \$0.65 for every \$1000 or fraction of that amount of paid-up capital. In no case is the tax to be less than \$65. (b) companies having terminating or withdrawable capital as well as fixed or permanent capital are to pay the sum of \$0.65 on every \$1000 of paid-up terminating or withdrawable capital after the first \$100,000 in amount. This in addition to the amount payable under clause a. (c) companies having terminating or withdrawable capital only, the sum of \$0.65 on every \$1000 or fraction of that amount of paid up terminating or withdrawable capital after the first \$100,000.

TRUST COMPANIES—Every trust company transacting business in Ontario is required to pay a tax of \$250 on the paid up capital up to \$100,000 and \$65 on every additional \$100,000 or fraction of that amount, and when the gross profits of the company are \$25,000 or more per annum an additional sum of \$500 must be paid. Income derived from paid-up capital and again invested in the business is not to be reckoned as gross profits.

RAILROADS—The tax on railroads depends on the location of the road the number of tracks, and the length of the line. Every company owning, operating or using a railway must pay a tax of \$60 per mile for a single track and \$20 per mile for each additional track owned, operated or used in any organized county, and a tax of \$40 per mile for a single track and \$10 per mile for each additional track in territory without county organization. If the railroad or system in question does not exceed 150 miles in length the company is only required to pay a tax of \$15 per mile of single track and \$5 per mile for each additional track, and where the railroad or system does not exceed 30 miles in length, the tax is still further reduced and the company is simply required to pay \$10 per mile of single track and \$5 per mile for each additional track. The measurement of the track in every case is not to include switches, spurs, or sidings.

STREET RAILWAYS—Street railways are also taxed on their mileage. Every company owning, operating, or using a street railway for carrying passengers is to pay a tax for each and every mile of track within the

city as follows: \$20 where the mileage does not exceed 20 miles; \$35 where the mileage exceeds 20 miles but does not exceed 30 miles; \$45 where the mileage exceeds 30 miles but does not exceed 50 miles; and \$60 where the mileage exceeds 50 miles. The mileage is to be computed by the single track (each mile of double being counted as two miles of single), but switches, sidings, tracks into car sheds, Ys, curves and portions of track not generally used for passenger traffic are to be left out of consideration in the estimate.

TELEGRAPH COMPANIES—Every company owning, operating or using a telegraph line for gain within Ontario is to pay a tax of one-tenth of 1 per cent upon the total amount of money invested in the line and works.

TELEPHONE COMPANIES—Every company owning, operating, or using a telephone line for gain in Ontario is to pay a tax of one-eighth of 1 per cent upon the paid-up capital of the company.

GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANIES—Every gas and electric lighting company operating in any city in the province is to pay a tax of one-tenth of 1 per cent on its paid-up capital. This tax, however, is not levied on plants owned by companies supplying natural gas nor on gas and electric lighting plants owned by the municipality.

EXPRESS COMPANIES—Every express company operating over a railroad in Ontario is to pay a tax of \$800 for the first 400 miles or fraction of that number and an additional \$125 for every additional 400 miles or fractional part of that distance. This law does not apply to express companies transporting goods in sealed cars between two points both of which are without the province; it is only to apply to companies receiving or delivering goods at stations in Ontario.

SLEEPING AND PARLOR CAR COMPANIES—Every company transacting business in Ontario by leasing or hiring sleeping or parlor cars to railroad companies, or where sleeping or parlor cars are run upon or are used by a railroad company within Ontario, are to pay a tax of one-third of one per cent upon the money invested in cars used within the Province.

To aid in the assessment and levy of this revenue every company on which a tax is imposed must on or before the first day of June in each year deliver such returns as are prescribed by the lieutenant-governor in council and if the treasurer of the province desires further information he may require it to be given under oath within thirty days. When the information is not furnished as the law provides, or when the company refuses all of the desired information when special request is made, the lieutenant-governor in council may have an inquiry made by a commissioner or commissioners appointed under the public inquiries act.

Their findings are not to be varied so as to increase the amount of the tax payable by the company without giving it an opportunity to be heard.

Each year, after deducting \$30,000, there is to be set apart from the consolidated revenue fund a sum equal to one-half of the amount received in taxes by the province from the railroads. This sum is to be credited to the cities, towns, incorporated villages and organized townships in Ontario in proportion to their population as compared with the whole population of the province as shown by the last preceding Dominion census.

ROBERT ARGYLL CAMPBELL.

Minimum Wage Act—New South Wales. The minimum wage act of New South Wales came into force January 1, 1909. The act applies to factories, warehouses, shops, bakehouses, laundries, and dye-works.

Provision is made that "no workman or shop-assistant shall be employed unless in the receipt of a weekly wage of at least four shillings, irrespective of any amount earned as overtime." Overtime for a workman means more than 48 hours of work in any week, or work after six o'clock in the evening on any working day. Overtime for a shop assistant means more than a half-hour's work after the closing time of the shop in terms of the early-closing acts. The minimum pay for overtime for boys under sixteen or for women is placed at not less than three-pence for every hour or portion of an hour; but employers may secure exemption from this requirement, as regards boys under sixteen, where the exigencies of any trade or any employment warrant such exemption. An employer must also pay any boy under sixteen or any woman whom he requires to work overtime on any day not less than sixpence as tea money.

As a further protection against the sweating trades, the law prohibits the payment of any "consideration, premium, or bonus" to any person "for the engaging or employing by him of any female in preparing, working at, dealing with, or manufacturing articles of clothing or wearing apparel for trade or sale."

The act does not apply where all the persons employed as workmen or shop assistants, are members of the employer's family, related in the first or second degree by blood or first degree by marriage.

Definite provision is made for the enforcement of the law. Employers are required to keep records in prescribed form, the duties and powers of factory inspectors are boadened, specific penalties are prescribed for the